

STATEMENT FROM GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH

To be read at the Gold & White Honors Dinner, March 18, 2004

I regret that a death in my family prevents me from being with you this evening to celebrate the outstanding service of Georgia Tech's alumni to the Institute. Georgia Tech is fortunate to have some of the most loyal, dedicated, supportive alumni in the nation, and the contributions that you make to the greatness of this university are beyond measure.

I especially want to congratulate Buck Stith, John Staton, and Mac Nease on this recognition of their service and leadership through the years; Brittany Robinson, who did not allow a life-threatening illness to deter her from becoming a young leader; Joe Hill and Roland Toups, who deserve to be honored for their community leadership; and five special friends of Georgia Tech – Bob McMath, Howard Morrison, Ed Reedy, June Weitnauer, and Jack Thompson – whose blood runs gold despite not having graduated from Tech and whose devotion exceeds that of many actual alumni.

A great university produces great alumni, so I think Georgia Tech can take a little credit for producing the outstanding leaders we honor tonight. In turn, the support and dedication of a body of outstanding alumni help a university achieve its potential for greatness, so I want to express my appreciation to each one of you for your steadfast and generous support. Georgia Tech could never have achieved its present prominence without your help, and your continued loyalty is the basis for our belief that our best days are still ahead.

I hope that you enjoy this evening's festivities to the full, and that every one of you, wherever you may be, will be cheering the Jackets on in Milwaukee tomorrow afternoon.